(c) whether Government has reduced the price of any the finish medicines based on these bulk drugs; and

(d) if so, names of such medicines, earlier price, reduced price and date on which each price was reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The purpose of giving custom duty concessions on drug intermediates and raw materials is to encourage the manufacture of bulk drugs and formulations from more basic stage, to save foreign exchange and also to ensure the availability of medicines in abundant quantity at reasonable prices to the consumer. The names of drugs whose intermediates and penultimates have been either exempted from custom duty or concessional custom duty has been granted during the last five years, are given in the various notifications issued by Ministry of Finance from time to time, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

The prices of scheduled bulk drugs and formulations are fixed/revised from time to time in consultation with BICP on the basis of latest duty structure.

Due to reduction in customs duty on various bulk drugs and drug intermediates/raw materials as announced in the budget for the year 1993-94, the Government has reduced the prices of 35 indigenously produced price controlled bulk drugs having imported contents w.e.f. 17.6.1993. Due to the impact of reduction in prices of these bulk drugs, BICP has been asked to work out the revised prices of formulations based on these drugs.

Price of Ceftazidime and Cefotaxim

1350. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of monopoly situation, price on Ceftazidime and Cefotaxim has not been conrolled;

(b) whether it is also a fact that major producers did not pass on the benefit or custom duty reduction to the consumers and if so, what was the magnitude of the benefits withheld;

(c) whether any decision has been taken that till review of the drug policy is completed, implementation of the old policy be held in abeyance; and

(d) if so, when was such a decision taken and at what level and what are the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) A Background note on review of Drug Policy, 1986 has been placed on the Table of the House on 12-8-1992 for discussion;

(b) The customs duty on bulk drug Ceftazidime and Cefotaxim was reduced in July, 1991 and September, 1991 respectively. However, the actual import at zero per cent duty took place only in November/December, 1991 after necessary amendment in the Notification. Before customs duty reduction, the Cefotaxim Injection in the finished form was being imported at zero per cent duty and company was selling imported formulations with 50 per cent MAPE. After withdrawing custom duty on bulk drug Ceftazidime, the company started marketing of indigenously manufactured formulations with higher MAPE, being a de-controlled formulation. The names of formulation based on bulk drug Cefotaxim were reduced in May, 1992 from Rs. 198.80 per vial to Rs. 143 per vial.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Consumer price of Carbamezapine

1351. SHRIMATI SAYTYA BAHIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during 1991-92 the CIF import price of Carbamezapine was Rs. 1614 per kg. and landed cost was Rs. 3318 per kg. Yet the